

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for embedding secret information in a color image signal, comprising:

embedding said secret information in a prescribed position in a first signal component of a color image signal; and

embedding position information, which specifies the position where the secret information is embedded, in a second signal component of said color image signal, wherein said color image signal comprises a plurality of color components, and said second signal component is a different color component from said first signal component.

2. (Previously Presented) A method for embedding secret information in a color image signal, comprising:

embedding said secret information in a prescribed position in a luminance signal of said color image signal; and

embedding position information, which specifies the position where the secret information is embedded, in a color difference signal of said color image signal.

3. (Previously Presented) The method for extracting secret information from a color image signal in which said secret information is embedded by an information embedding method according to Claim 1, comprising:

extracting said position information from said second signal component of said color image

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signal; and

based on at least the position information extracted, extracting said secret information from said first signal component of said color image signal.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for extracting secret information from a color image signal in which said secret information is embedded by an information embedding method according to Claim 2, comprising:

extracting said position information from said color difference signal of said color image signal; and

based on at least the position information extracted, extracting said secret information from said luminance signal of said color image signal.

5. – 6. (Canceled).

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the position where said secret information is to be embedded is varied frame by frame.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, wherein when said secret information is extracted from said image signal, the position from which said secret information is extracted is varied frame by frame.

9. – 10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for embedding secret information in a color image signal, comprising:

first information embedding means for embedding said secret information in a prescribed position in a first signal component of said color image signal; and

second information embedding means for embedding position information, which specifies the position where the secret information is embedded, in a second signal component of said color image signal.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising:

first information extracting means for extracting said position information from said second signal component of said color image signal; and

second information extracting means for extracting said secret information from said first signal component of said color image signal, based on at least the position information provided by the first information extracting means.

13. – 34. (Canceled).

35. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium in which a program for executing an information embedding method according to Claim 1 is recorded.

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36. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium in which a program for executing an information extracting method according to Claim 3 is recorded.